

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17-18, 2022

Prepared on February 2, 2022

ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Matt Keeling 805/549-3140
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov

ACTION: Information/Discussion

KEY INFORMATION: This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board and the program performance measures. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

Alisal Fire Update – Tajiguas Landfill

Since the Alisal Fire in October 2021, Water Board staff from our landfill, stormwater and site cleanup programs have been coordinating with County of Santa Barbara and CalRecycle staff regarding site restoration and cleanup efforts at the Tajiguas Landfill. The major post-fire site cleanup actions and repairs have been completed and the county is still actively working on other site restoration efforts as noted below:

Pila Creek Sulfuric Acid Spill Cleanup

Preliminary review of soil sampling results indicates impacted soils have been satisfactorily removed from the creek channel. Soil sampling also indicated low levels of PFAS related constituents associated with the firefighting foam used to put out the wood chip bioreactor fire. Impacted soils initially staged in covered roll off bins are now being moved to covered stockpiles within lined portions of the active landfill where it will be used as daily cover. The impacted soils are being managed to prevent it from contacting stormwater until it is placed in the landfill and covered with other material.

Landfill Infrastructure Repair

Fire damage to the landfill gas collection system headers has been repaired and the system is operating properly. Approximately 600 linear feet of stormwater drains have been repaired and additional management practices (e.g., k-rails and Rubik cube concrete structures) were added to sedimentation basins to mitigate potential debris flows. During the December rainstorm the stormwater drains and the added sedimentation basin management practices functioned properly when the site received small amounts of debris flow material from the fire impacted areas in the canyon upslope of the landfill.

Closed/Covered Landfill Area Slope Stabilization

Revegetation of the burned landfill final cover areas (i.e., over closed portions of the landfill) is ongoing. Of the approximately 75 acres of burn area initially requiring revegetation, the county hydroseeded about six acres of accessible high-risk intermediate slopes shortly after the fire and natural regrowth has occurred on about 39 acres. County staff are seeking funding to hydroseed the remaining 30 acres from the County Board of Supervisors and through a cost sharing agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. The county is currently preparing phased closure revegetation plans for Water Board and CalRecycle review and approval.

The county will be submitting a report of non-compliance as required by the landfill waste discharge requirements fully documenting the fire related damage and associated corrective actions. Staff will continue to work with the county to help facilitate completion of outstanding issues as part of the post disaster related iterative process.

Racial Equity Initiative Update

Although the Central Coast Water Board's staff led Racial Equity Working Group and staff at large are passionate about this initiative, the thoughtful and stepwise process to develop a draft racial equity resolution is taking longer than initially anticipated. As such, the Racial Equity Working Group is now targeting the April 21-22, 2022, board meeting to present and discuss our region-specific draft racial equity resolution instead of this meeting as originally intended. The primary delay is associated with not being able to complete a meaningful and inclusive internal engagement process with all staff over the holidays.

The Working Group has completed its engagement with all staff on a program-by-program basis and is processing the input received to identify themes and associated issues to address in the draft resolution. The next step of the internal engagement process will be to communicate and discuss the highlights of the internal engagement process back to staff during an all-staff meeting and to receive additional feedback. A subcommittee of the Working Group has begun drafting a strawman of the draft resolution that will incorporate the thematic issues received from the internal engagement process as well as input from an external engagement process. The Working Group is also in the process of developing an external engagement plan that will include broad outreach for stakeholders to self-identify as participants in the racial equity resolution discussion process and more targeted outreach to specific groups that we know are already interested in providing input. Virtual meetings will be held with the external partners identified through the outreach to discuss next steps and get early input to inform the draft resolution. The sequential release of the draft and proposed racial equity resolutions for public review and the two associated public meetings to discuss the draft racial equity resolution and consider a proposed racial equity resolution are also a fundamental part of the external engagement process. Section Manager Angela Schroeter has also secured panel speakers for the draft racial equity meeting discussion item in April.

For additional background information about the State Water Board's and Central Coast Water Board's racial equity initiatives, please see the item number 9 staff report for the December 10, 2021, board meeting hyperlinked below:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2021/dec/item9_stfrpt

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

r:\rb3\shared\board meetings\current agenda\2022\02_feb_17\item_17 eo report\item17_stfrpt.docx